

000075

101
02/24**REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**
CITY OF SAN DIEGOCERTIFICATE NUMBER
(FOR AUDITOR'S USE ONLY)
AC2900519TO:
CITY COUNCILFROM (ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT):
Environmental ServicesDATE:
12/10/2008

SUBJECT: Grant to remove trash and non-native plants on a section of Chollas Creek.

PRIMARY CONTACT (NAME, PHONE):
Lisa Wood, 858-573-1236SECONDARY CONTACT (NAME, PHONE):
Darin Neufeld, 858-573-1286**COMPLETE FOR ACCOUNTING PURPOSES**

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| FUND | 41200 | | | | | |
| DEPT. | | | | | | |
| ORGANIZATION | | | | | | |
| OBJECT ACCOUNT | 9544 | | | | | |
| JOB ORDER | | | | | | |
| C.I.P. NUMBER | | | | | | |
| AMOUNT | \$49,525.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| FUND | | | | | | |
| DEPT. | | | | | | |
| ORGANIZATION | | | | | | |
| OBJECT ACCOUNT | | | | | | |
| JOB ORDER | | | | | | |
| C.I.P. NUMBER | | | | | | |
| AMOUNT | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

COST SUMMARY (IF APPLICABLE): Grant will pay for 50% of work. Current total cost estimate is \$99,050.00 with the City responsible for \$49,525.00, which has already been allocated.

ROUTING AND APPROVALS

| CONTRIBUTORS/REVIEWERS: | | APPROVING AUTHORITY | APPROVAL SIGNATURE | DATE SIGNED |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Liaison Office | Comptroller | ORIG DEPT. | Billiard, Shelia | 1/14/2009 |
| Equal Opportunity Contracting | Comptroller | CFO | | |
| Grants Administration | Comptroller | DEPUTY CHIEF | Jarrell, David | 2/6/2009 |
| Park and Recreation | Financial Management | COO | | |
| Environmental Analysis | | CITY ATTORNEY | Lowenberg, Grace | 2/10/2009 |
| | | COUNCIL PRESIDENTS OFFICE | Halsey, Keely | 2/11/2009 |

PREPARATION OF: ☒ RESOLUTIONS ☐ ORDINANCE(S) ☐ AGREEMENT(S) ☐ DEED(S)

1. Authorize the Mayor or designee to apply for, negotiate an agreement with, and accept grant funds from the Habitat Conservation Fund, California Park and Recreation Department (HCF) for an amount not to exceed \$49,525.00 for the Chollas Creek habitat enhancement project, for a five year period.
2. Authorize the Mayor or designee to conduct grant negotiations, and execute all HCF grant-related documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests which may be

000076

necessary to secure funding from the Habitat Conservation Fund and to carry out and administer the City's responsibilities under the terms and conditions of the grant.

3. Authorize the City Comptroller to accept, appropriate, and expend grant funds from the HCF for the Chollas Creek habitat enhancement project, contingent upon execution by the Mayor or designee of a grant agreement.

4. Authorize the City Comptroller to expend \$49,525.00 from Fund No. 41200 for the purpose of habitat restoration of Chollas Creek, contingent upon receipt of a fully executed grant agreement.

5. Authorize the City Comptroller to establish a separate fund to track expenditures and receive grant-related reimbursements for eligible expenditures.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve Resolutions

SPECIAL CONDITIONS (REFER TO A.R. 3.20 FOR INFORMATION ON COMPLETING THIS SECTION)

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S): 4 and 7

COMMUNITY AREA(S): Oak Park, El Cerito, and Redwood Village

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: This activity (grant application) is not a project and is therefore not subject to CEQA pursuant Section 15060(c)(3) . The activity for which the grant funds would be used, if awarded, is Statutorily Exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Section 15268 (Ministerial Projects) as it is part of operations and maintenance provided by the City on City property, and no land use permits will be required.

CITY CLERK INSTRUCTIONS:

DOCKET SUPPORTING INFORMATION
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CONTRACTING PROGRAM EVALUATION

DATE: 101
January 21, 2009 02/24

SUBJECT: Grant to remove trash and non-native plants on a section of Chollas Creek

GENERAL CONTRACT INFORMATION

Recommended Consultant: Habitat Conservation Fund

Amount of this Action: \$49,525.00

SUBCONSULTANT PARTICIPATION

There is no subconsultant activity associated with this action.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMPLIANCE

Equal Opportunity Required:

This agreement is not subject to the City's Equal Opportunity Contracting (San Diego Ordinance No. 18173, Section 22.2701 through 22.2702) and Non-Discrimination in Contracting Ordinance (San Diego Municipal Code Sections 22.3501 through 22.3517) since the participant is a Government Agency.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

This action is a request for Authorization to apply for and accept grant funds from the Habitat Conservation Fund, California Park and Recreation Department (HCF).

JLR

000079

**COUNCIL ACTION
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET
CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

DATE: 12/10/2008

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Environmental Services

SUBJECT: Grant to remove trash and non-native plants on a section of Chollas Creek.

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S): 4 and 7

CONTACT/PHONE NUMBER: Lisa Wood/858-573-1236

REQUESTED ACTION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the application, acceptance, and expenditure of grant funds from the Habitat Conservation Fund and the expenditure of City matching funds to remove trash and non-native plants from a section of Chollas Creek.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolutions

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ITEM BACKGROUND:

The Habitat Conservation Fund will provide the funds needed to restore and maintain for five years approximately 4.03 acres of native riparian and upland coastal sage scrub habitat along Chollas Creek, in the vicinity of 54th Street and Chollas Pkwy. Efforts to remove trash and non-native species will improve water quality for native plant and animal communities. Currently that section of Chollas Creek exceeds TMDL's for several pollutants. Removal of trash would help reduce the source of some of these pollutants. The project will serve the interests of the city, not only by improving wildlife habitat and water quality, but also by providing for removal of trash in this area that frequently is occupied by transients. Removal of non-native vegetation may discourage future encampments in this area.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The funding for the 54th and Chollas Pkwy location (\$49,525.00) will be provided through the Habitat Conservation Fund of the California Park and Recreation Department. The City has paid for cleanups in this area in the past from its own funding sources, and this grant would help expand the ability of the City to continue cleanups and reduce the financial impact of them on the City. The total estimated cost of the project is \$99,050.00, with the city being responsible for \$49,525.00 used to restore a 4.03 acre section of Chollas Creek. The City will provide matching funds through staff time and volunteer hours.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CONTRACTING INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):

PREVIOUS COUNCIL and/or COMMITTEE ACTION:

Resolution No. 300721 was approved for a related project on 08/01/2005, however the Environmental Services Department did not receive the grant. The previous grant was for a much smaller amount (\$8,000) and did not require matching funds.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:

000080

The Environmental Services Department will be working with Groundwork San Diego and the California Conservation Corps to assist in site clean up service and an educational nexus with local public schools and the community.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS:

Work will be organized by the Environmental Services Department in concert with Transportation/Streets and Parks and Recreation.

Billiard, Shelia

Originating Department

Jarrell, David

Deputy Chief/Chief Operating Officer

000081

The City of San Diego
CERTIFICATE OF CITY AUDITOR AND COMPTROLLER

CERTIFICATE OF UNALLOTTED BALANCE

ORIGINATING

AC 2900519

DEPT. NO.: 753

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the money required for the allotment of funds for the purpose set forth in the foregoing resolution is available in the Treasury, or is anticipated to come into the Treasury, and is otherwise unallotted.

Amount: \$49,525.00 Fund: 41200

Purpose: Authorizing the expenditure in the amount of \$49,525 from Fund No. 41200 for the purpose of habitat restoration of Chollas Creek, contingent upon receipt of a fully executed grant agreement.

Date: January 20, 2009

By: Marilyn Nguyen

Marilyn Nguyen
 AUDITOR AND COMPTROLLER'S DEPARTMENT

ACCOUNTING DATA

| ACCTG. LINE | CY PY | FUND | DEPT | ORG. | ACCOUNT | JOB ORDER | OPERATION ACCOUNT | BENF/ EQUIP | FACILITY | AMOUNT |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|------|---------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| 001 | 0 | 41200 | | | 9544 | | | | | \$49,525.00 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL AMOUNT | | | | | | | | | | \$49,525.00 |

FUND OVERRIDE ☐**CERTIFICATION OF UNENCUMBERED BALANCE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the indebtedness and obligation to be incurred by the contract or agreement authorized by the hereto attached resolution, can be incurred without the violation of any of the provisions of the Charter of the City of San Diego; and I do hereby further certify, in conformity with the requirements of the Charter of the City of San Diego, that sufficient moneys have been appropriated for the purpose of said contract, that sufficient moneys to meet the obligations of said contract are actually in the Treasury, or are anticipated to come into the Treasury, to the credit of the appropriation from which the same are to be drawn, and that the said money now actually in the Treasury, together with the moneys anticipated to come into the Treasury, to the credit of said appropriation, are otherwise unencumbered.

Amount: _____

Vendor: _____

Purpose: _____

Date: _____

By: _____

AUDITOR AND COMPTROLLER'S DEPARTMENT

ACCOUNTING DATA

| ACCTG. LINE | CY PY | FUND | DEPT | ORG. | ACCOUNT | JOB ORDER | OPERATION ACCOUNT | BENF/ EQUIP | FACILITY | AMOUNT |
|-------------|-------|------|------|------|---------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|----------|--------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

Chollas Creek Project Area
4.03 Acres

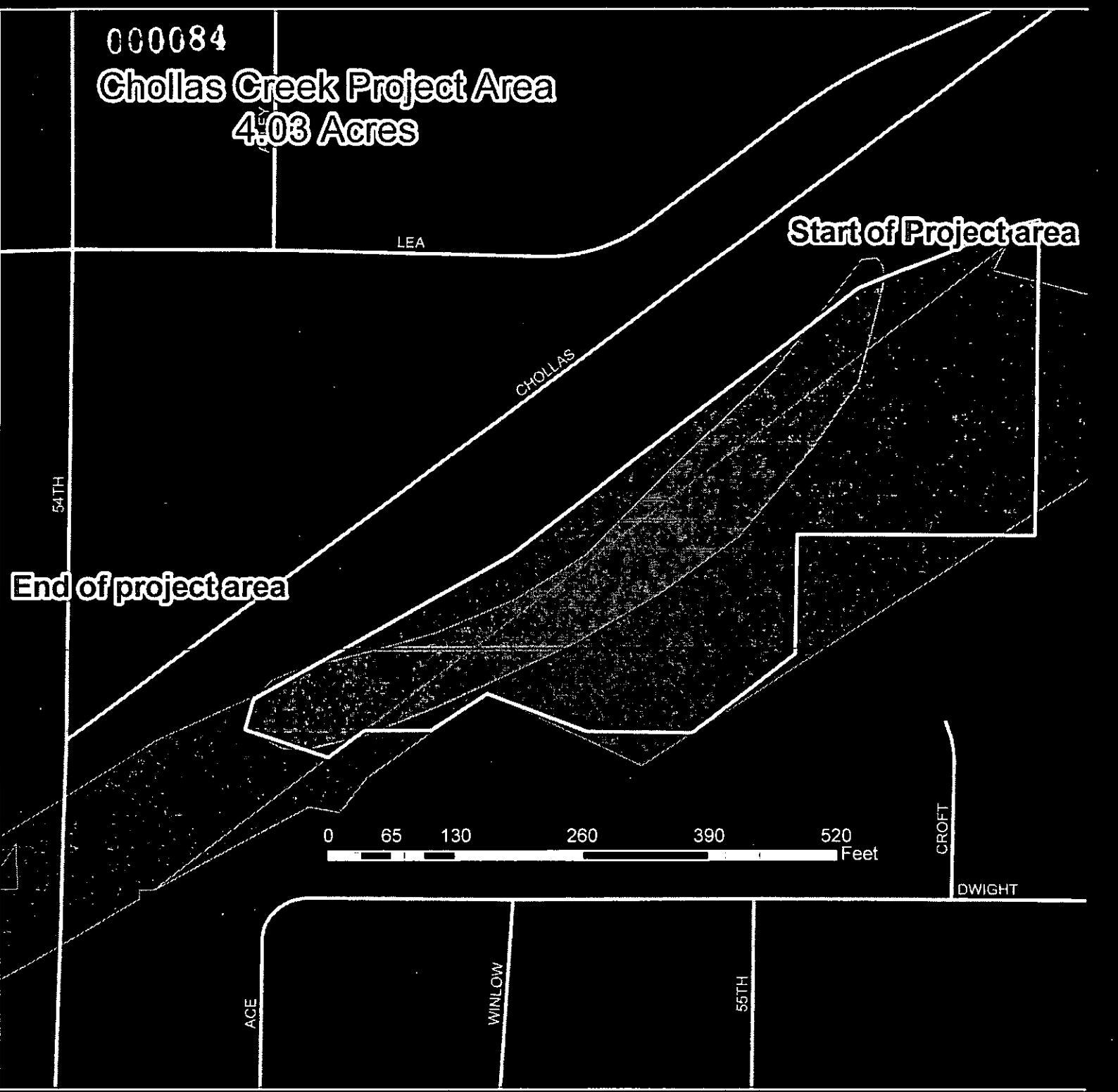
Start of Project area

End of project area



000084

Chollas Creek Project Area 4.08 Acres



RESOLUTION NUMBER R-_____

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO AUTHORIZING
A GRANT APPLICATION AND RELATED ACTIONS
REGARDING CHOLLAS CREEK HABITAT ENHANCEMENT.

WHEREAS, the California Park and Recreation Department provides grants for habitat enhancement and trash removal under its Habitat Conservation Fund; and

WHEREAS, the City is eligible for such grant funding in connection with Chollas Creek, in the vicinity of 54th Street and Chollas Parkway; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, as follows:

1. That the Mayor or his designee is authorized to apply for, negotiate an agreement with, and accept grant funding from the Habitat Conservation Fund, California Park and Recreation Department, in an amount not to exceed \$49,525 for a period of five years, for the Chollas Creek Habitat Enhancement Project.

2. That the Mayor or his designee is further authorized to conduct grant negotiations and execute all grant related documents for the Chollas Creek Enhancement Project including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests which may be necessary to secure funding from the Habitat Conservation Fund, and to carry out and administer the City's responsibilities under the terms and conditions of the grant.

3. That the City Comptroller is authorized to accept, appropriate, and expend grant funds received for the Chollas Creek Habitat Enhancement Project, contingent on execution by the Mayor or his designee of a grant agreement.

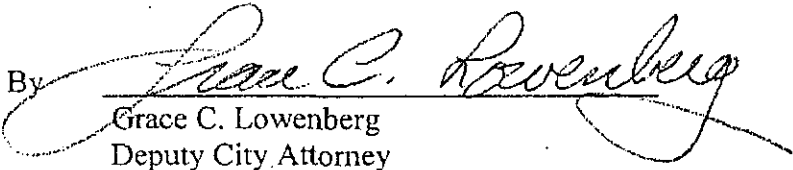
4. That the City Comptroller is further authorized to establish a separate fund to track expenditures and receive grant related reimbursements for eligible expenditures.

5. That the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$49,525 from Fund No. 41200 is authorized, solely and exclusively to provide matching funds for the Chollas Creek Habitat Enhancement Project, contingent on execution by the Mayor or his designee of a grant agreement.

6. That the grant application activity is not a project and therefore is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15060(c)(3). The activity for which the grant funds will be used, if awarded, is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15268(Ministerial Projects) because it is part of the operations and maintenance provided by the City on City property and no land use permits will be required.

APPROVED: JAN I. GOLDSMITH, City Attorney

By


Grace C. Lowenberg
Deputy City Attorney

GCL:mb
02/10/09
Cert.No: AC 2900519
Or.Dept:ESD
R-2009-815

000087

(R-2009-815)

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed by the Council of the City of Diego,
at its meeting of _____.

ELIZABETH S. MALAND, City Clerk

By _____
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: _____
(date)

JERRY SANDERS, Mayor

Vetoed: _____
(date)

JERRY SANDERS, Mayor

000089

Chollas Creek Restoration Project

**Environmental Services – Office of the Director
9601 Ridgehaven Court
San Diego, CA 92123-1636**

**Lisa Wood
(858) 573-1236
lfwood@sandiego.gov**

**Darin Neufeld
(858) 573-1286
dneufeld@sandiego.gov**

October 1, 2008



**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT**

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Application Form | 1 |
| Site Plan | 2 |
| Topographic Map | 4 |
| Cost Estimate | 5 |
| Project Location Map | 6 |
| Photos | 7 |
| Land Tenure | 10 |
| California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) | 12 |
| Authorizing Resolution | 13 |
| Project Summary and Relevance | 14 |
| Project Proposal | 15 |
| Required Regulatory Permits | 20 |
| Attachments and Tables | 21 |

000093

Site Plan

Chollas Creek has become a vegetated flood control channel amid a highly urbanized community. Residential and commercial buildings occupy the perimeter of the creek. The proposed restoration site is included in the Multiple Habitat Planning area (MHPA), a habitat preserve area designated by the City of San Diego's Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP). The site contains primarily riparian wetland habitat, and also some upland. The project site is owned by the City of San Diego and administered by the Water Department and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Access points to the site are located along the entire southern portion of Chollas Parkway. Interpretive signage offering viewer information about the Creek's native flora and fauna, as well as the City of San Diego, community, and California Conservation Corps involvement will be located along the project boundary (Figure 1 below).

000094

Cost Estimate

Currently, the total estimated cost for the project is \$99,050. The table below provides a detailed description of the project expenses. Implementing the exotic plant eradication management plan may require additional personnel and expense while transient camps are not anticipated to be a major issue after the exotic plants are removed. The initial clean up and exotic plant removal effort is anticipated to significantly reduce management costs in the future. The City will provide matching funds primarily through staff time and volunteer hours.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 54TH AND CHOLLAS PKWY GRANT | |
| Pre-Construction Costs | |
| prepare exotic plant eradication management plan and riparian restoration management plan; approximately 40 hours | \$1,000.00 |
| Construction Costs | |
| supervision and monitoring of exotic plant removal by biologists II and III | \$5,500.00 |
| supervision and monitoring of native revegetation effort by biologists II and III | \$2,750.00 |
| exotic plant removal effort, transient camp abatement, debris removal and establishment period (35 days) exotic plant removal by hand performed by support services field crews and California Conservation Corps purchase and installation of interpretive signs | \$62,000.00 |
| native plant revegetation effort (14 days) planting native vegetation by hand performed by support services field crews and California Conservation Corps | \$14,600.00 |
| seeds for broadcast planting and potted plants | \$3,000.00 |
| Long-term establishment period | |
| implementing the exotic plant eradication period (5 years) | \$5,100.00 |
| implementing the riparian and upland restoration period (5 years) | \$5,100.00 |
| GRANT REQUEST AMOUNT | \$49,525.00 |
| REQUIRED MATCH AMOUNT | \$49,525.00 |
| TOTAL HCF PROJECT COST | \$99,050.00 |

000095

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

City Council will be asked to approve the Chollas Creek Restoration Project by January 13, 2009. If approved, the resolution will follow this application shortly.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RELEVANCE

The City of San Diego, Environmental Services Department has proposed to implement a restoration program for a section of Chollas Creek. The 30-mile creek has several branches, originating in La Mesa and Lemon Grove, winding its way through the communities of City Heights, Encanto, Oak Park, Webster, and Barrio Logan, spilling out into San Diego Bay. The proposed project will restore a 4.03 acre section of the creek, starting at the origin of the main branch, a quarter mile east of 54th street, and ending at 54th Street.

Toxicity in Chollas Creek due to diazinon during storm events was the basis for the 1996 303(d) listing of Chollas Creek for "toxicity in storm water". Federal law requires the Regional Board to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for waters on the Section 303(d) list. This TMDL is intended to attain suitable water quality and restore the beneficial uses of "impaired" waters.

Diazinon is as an organophosphate insecticide commonly used both indoors and outdoors causing acute and chronic toxicity to aquatic life. Urban storm water flows were identified as the primary source of diazinon to Chollas Creek. In December 2000, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced an agreement to phase-out diazinon for indoor uses, beginning in March 2001 and for all lawn, garden and turf uses by December 2003.

Despite these efforts, urban runoff continues to be one of the most significant pollution impacts to the watershed. Currently, whenever it rains, trash and other debris inundate the creek. The occurrence of transient camps in and around the creek significantly increases point source pollution of *E. coli* and other human related bacteria, along with other potential disastrous pollutants such as lead-acid batteries. If urban and storm water runoff pollution can be treated within Chollas Creek by transient abatement, debris removal, and the restoration of native wetland plant species, then urban pollutant levels that enter San Diego Bay would be minimized. San Diego Bay is a popular outdoor recreational destination for a wide variety of water sports. Improving water quality for fishing, boating and other recreation would benefit the region.

Restoration of the native riparian and upland coastal sage scrub community provides an opportunity to improve existing habitat conditions. Benefits include increasing potential breeding habitat for birds, enhancing connectivity and corridor opportunity between existing patches of habitat conserved in the City, and reestablishing vital ecosystems services provided by functional wetlands (e.g. improving water quality).

Project Proposal

Project Location

Habitat restoration will occur in the headwaters of Chollas Creek, starting a quarter of a mile west of the intersection of Chollas Parkway and 54th Street. Restoration will continue occur along a 4.03 acre stretch of the creek ending at 54th Street (Attachment 1). Restoration work will include the removal of non-native plants within the project area, along the creek and its banks, to improve habitat value, ecosystem services, and flood protection. Additionally, revegetation will be implemented as part of the project to include native riparian plantings to enhance the habitat for environmental and aesthetic benefits.

Habitat and Community Composition

City biologists conducted biological surveys at various times in 2003 and 2004. Vegetation communities in and along Chollas Creek are comprised of a mix of native and non-native plant species. Wetlands are important habitats supporting important functions and values for the biological community. Depending upon the characteristics of a particular wetland, activities in it maybe regulated by several agencies, including local land use authorities, the California Department of Fish and Game, and, in some cases, federal agencies. Local land use authorities may have direct prohibitions against certain impacts to wetlands before they approve discretionary projects. The proposed project is a riparian restoration project, one that would retain native species, while removing problematic nonnative species that do not provide habitat for native species or that alter the hydrology or soil characteristics so that native species cannot persist.

Plant communities found within the project area include freshwater marsh, riparian woodland, riparian scrub, non-native trees and nonnative riparian vegetation. Numerous storm drain outlets carrying urban and stormwater runoff empty into the creek year-round. Dense non-native vegetation covers the creek channel starting at the headwaters and extends downstream throughout the system. Included in the native plant community are species of willow, cattails, cypress, laurel sumac, toyon, mulefat, sage, lemonade berry and coyote bush. Problematic nonnative plants include mustard, Brazilian pepper, oat, fennel, palms, *Eucalyptus*, castor bean, *Acacia*, *Arundo*, Bermuda grass, thistle, various types of iceplant, and assorted nonnative grasses.

The observed faunal composition is far less diverse than what would be expected in a healthy riparian corridor. Various species of fence and side-blotched lizards are rare occurrences. Invertebrate studies conducted by San Diego State University have identified several species of native beetles (*Eleodes*) and spiders, however, the current arthropod community is dominated by nonnative

cockroaches, isopods, and earwigs. The small mammal community consists of *Neotoma* (wood rat) and species of *Peromyscus*. The only native meso-carnivores observed were the skunks and raccoon. Additional nonnative mammals include the opossum, feral cats, and domesticated dogs. The cascading effects of restoring the native vegetation community will likewise improve the faunal composition, likely reducing the occurrence of problem invertebrates such as nonnative cockroaches, isopods (potato bugs), and earwigs.

Access to the Project

The proposed restoration site will be viewable along a dirt shoulder on the south side and parallel to Chollas Parkway. Once restored this access route will act as a pedestrian viewpoint for the enjoyment of Chollas Creek. Interpretive signage will describe native habitat and offer photos, creating a deeper understanding of the Creek's relationship to the City of San Diego, especially the San Diego Bay.

Stakeholder Involvement

Groundwork San Diego is the City's primary not-for-profit partner in the restoration of the Chollas Creek watershed. A letter of support from them is pending. In addition, community groups repeatedly request clean up of this area, and will be included in updates as work under the grant progresses. The Eastern Area Planning Committee and the surrounding communities of Oak Park, El Cerito, and Redwood Village are in favor of the Chollas Creek Restoration Project and strongly desire the restoration of this site. The community has worked with local law enforcement to remove transients and initiate cleanups on numerous occasions in the past. The Chollas Creek Restoration Project is consistent with the Chollas Creek Plan and will follow the Plan's stated goal of creek restoration. Letters of support from community groups are pending.

Project Description

The proposed project will restore 4.03 acres of riparian and upland habitat one-quarter mile east of 54th Street. Existing conditions are documented in Appendix A. Restoration of Chollas Creek will occur in three phases. The first phase will require the removal of transients and debris from the site, using the standard practices associated with transient abatement. Transient abatement will be conducted throughout the project area, along with subsequent cleanup of any debris at the site.

The second phase will involve the removal of more than a dozen nonnative plant species. All vegetation will be removed by hand. All cleared vegetation will be removed from the site and then taken to the Miramar Landfill for composting. Removal activity will largely focus on the interior riparian corridor, with additional removal of upland nonnative plants approximately 10-20 meters above the

riparian zone. All activities will be conducted outside the breeding season for sensitive birds (October to December). Additionally, the removal of debris and nonnative vegetation will be done by hand, reducing the impacts associated with noise and other factors to a level below significance. No removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees will occur. No staging areas will need to be created, as existing streets and parking areas are available for all such activities. Impacts to native vegetation will be avoided, with all of the off-trail activity occurring in existing areas of nonnative vegetation.

The final phase of the project is the revegetation of native plants in the areas where nonnative vegetation was removed. The revegetation will occur immediately following the removal of nonnative plants (within 4 weeks). Both riparian obligate and upland vegetation will be used. Upland plant species such as California sagebrush, laurel sumac and California sunflower will be planted along sections of the creek banks and the terraces adjacent to the existing trail for erosion control and aesthetic reasons. The mosaic of plants used in the revegetation will attempt to mimic natural vegetative conditions, integrating information on the surrounding native vegetation in the selection of plants. The removal of nonnative vegetation and addition of native provides additional benefits beyond those associated with the biotic community. Native plants are more water efficient and fire resistant than the existing exotic community (e.g. pampas grass and *Arundo*). Table 1 provides information on the existing plant community, while Table 2 describes the proposed palette for the revegetation effort.

The revegetation will use seeds obtained from S&S Seeds, a source of local plant materials. A majority of the potted plants are already available through the City's Environmental Services Department. The recommended lbs/acre for each species is provided in Table 2. Seeds will be spread using a hand broadcasting method. No additional irrigation will be necessary for this project.

The completed restoration project will increase habitat for local and migratory animal species as well as improve the water quality of this urbanized creek and safety for the surrounding community. The habitat restoration effort will also decrease the reoccurring transient populations by removing non-native plant hideouts and in return will decrease the source of transient related pollutants. The restoration of the creek is well integrated into the goals of the City's Multi-Species Conservation Program, by providing a net benefit to the ecosystem by removing nonnative plants and restoring the site with native species. Additional cascading effects will occur throughout the system, by providing suitable habitat for native species of vertebrate and invertebrate animals, including those covered by the MSCP.

Restoration Team

The following City of San Diego staff will implement the proposed project:

Lisa Wood, Biologist III; specializes in ecology and disturbance theory.

John Howard, Biologist III; expertise in restoration ecology and revegetation projects.

Angel Perez, Senior Utility supervisor; expertise in exotic plant removal and transient camp abatements.

Landscape/revegetation/maintenance contractor(s): John Howard and Burton Ewert.

Seed/plant collection/procurement contracting: S&S Seeds and other donating organizations.

California Conservation Corps

The City of San Diego has negotiated with the California Conservation Corps and Conservation Supervisor, Victor Avila to aid in restoration efforts. The Corps is extremely supportive of the City's efforts and is proud to be a part of this vital restoration project. The California Conservation Corps has prepared a detailed scope of work and cost estimate to provide services for the Chollas Creek Restoration Project. The Corps will be using their own equipment and crews of up to ten, plus supervision to restore the creek in a timely manner. The City of San Diego is looking forward to this beneficial partnership (Attachment 2).

Site Preparation

This restoration project will occur over a period of several days in October through December. Transient abatement and subsequent removal of debris will occur before the removal of exotic plants and revegetation. No land shaping or grading will occur in the project area, eliminating the need for erosion control plans. Therefore, no anticipated changes to the base flood elevations will occur. No irrigation of the project area is proposed. All access to the project site will occur along the existing paved biking/walking trail along the north and east side of the creek. Staging areas will be established in existing parking lots or nearby streets. Crews working within the vegetated zone will be required to minimize impacts by limiting their foot traffic to existing trails and away from existing areas of native vegetation. No significant alteration of the streambed is proposed. Therefore, no major change to current sedimentation is expected to occur. The nonnative vegetation will primarily be removed by physical means. However, we will ask for EAS and MSCP review for any herbicides that may be used on the project site. If any herbicides are used, we will follow all recommended guidelines for application, minimizing any impacts to the aquatic ecosystem. A biological monitor will be present during transient abatement, nonnative plant removal, and revegetation to ensure that sensitive resources are adequately protected from potential project impacts. This will include flagging of the sensitive areas to ensure no disturbances occur to the resources. No grading or

land shaping will occur at the site. A biologist will also conduct subsequent site surveys and follow the recommended monitoring protocol and oversee any additional necessary management of the project site.

Establishment Period

Five-year management and establishment period will be planned and implemented by City of San Diego staff in the Environmental Services Department. The City of San Diego employs in-house experts to accommodate the needs of this Project. Environmental Services Department employees include biologists and support services field crews to implement the exotic plant removal and revegetation components of the habitat restoration project. To ensure the success of this Project, long-term native revegetation, restoration, and exotic plant control will be implemented by the City of San Diego to monitor the condition and establishment of native plantings and the success of exotic plant eradication. ESD biologists will be responsible for implementing the exotic plant eradication monitoring and management concurrently with the revegetation and restoration. Additionally, volunteers and/or staff will monitor transient repopulation levels and the California Conservation Corps will regularly schedule clean up efforts within the area. Support services crew will be called to assist if additional staff or equipment is needed in the field. The City of San Diego will maintain this area as long as the grant funding is available. Following the grant period, additional opportunities to maintain and/or enhance this site will be investigated, including potentially using the site as a restoration site.

The initial plantings and seeds will be protected from vandalism with temporary plastic fencing until the plants become established. Weed control will occur throughout the five-year monitoring period as necessary. Additional seeding or plantings will only be necessary if the original revegetation does not become successfully established. Diseased plants and nonnative vegetation will be removed from the project area as needed.

Monitoring and Success Assessment

A five-year maintenance and monitoring schedule will be implemented upon successful completion of the debris removal, transient abatement, nonnative plant removal, and revegetation. A quarterly site visit will be conducted to monitor the condition and establishment of native plantings and the success of exotic plant eradication. ESD biologists will be responsible for implementing the exotic plant eradication monitoring and management concurrently with the revegetation and restoration of the site. Additionally, volunteers and/or staff will monitor transient repopulation levels, provide graffiti control and regularly schedule clean up efforts within the area. Support services crew will be called to assist if additional staff or equipment is needed in the field. At the end of the five-year project term, management of this site will return to the Water and Park and Recreation

000103

departments. They will not be responsible for subsequent monitoring or non-native plant removal after the term of the project has ended.

Required Regulatory Permits

None.

Table 1. Existing plants occurring in the project area.

| Existing Exotic Plants | Existing Native Plants |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bermuda grass | Arroyo willow |
| Brazilian pepper tree | California buckwheat |
| CA Pepper | California sagebrush |
| Castor bean | California sycamore |
| <i>Elaeagnus</i> species | Cattail |
| <i>Eucalyptus</i> species | Cupressus |
| Fennel | Desert broom |
| Fountain grass | Laurel sumac |
| Giant reed | Lemonade berry |
| Grasses | Mulefat |
| Ice plant | Rhibes |
| <i>Mesembryanthemum</i> | <i>Salicornia</i> species |
| Oat | San Diego sagewort |
| Palms | <i>Scirpus</i> species |
| Russian thistle | Sugar bush |
| Tobacco | Toyon |
| Bermuda grass | |

Table 2. Recommended plant palette for the revegetation of the project area:

Riparian obligate species will be used within the riparian corridor, while upland species will be used in the area outside the riparian zone.

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Planting Method/Rate |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Recommended riparian species for revegetation | | |
| Arroyo willow | <i>Salix lasiolepis</i> | Cuttings (as needed) |
| Sandbar willow | <i>Salix exigua</i> | Cuttings (as needed) |
| Palmer's sagewort | <i>Artemisia palmerii</i> | Potted Plants (up to 25) |
| Mexican elderberry | <i>Sambucus mexicana</i> | Potted Plants (up to 20) |
| Mugwort | <i>Artemisia douglasiana</i> | Potted Plants (up to 20) |
| Western sycamore | <i>Platanus racemosa</i> | Potted Plants (up to 15) |
| Mulefat | <i>Baccharis salicifolia</i> | Potted Plants (up to 30) |
| San Diego marsh elder | <i>Iva hayesiana</i> | Potted Plants (up to 25) |
| Purple needlegrass | <i>Nassella pulchra</i> | |
| Blue-eyed grass | <i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i> | |
| California Rose | <i>Rosa californica</i> | Potted Plants (up to 30) Seeding from existing plants |
| Recommended upland species for revegetation | | |
| California sagebrush | <i>Artemisia californica</i> | Seeding / 2.5 lbs/ac |
| Flat-top buckwheat | <i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> | Seeding / 2.0 lbs/ac |
| Lemonade berry | <i>Rhus integrifolia</i> | Seeding / 1.0 lbs/ac |
| Black sage | <i>Salvia mellifera</i> | Seeding / 1.5 lbs/ac |
| White sage | <i>Salvia apiana</i> | Seeding / 1.5 lbs/ac |
| Laurel sumac | <i>Malosma laurina</i> | Seeding / 1.0 lbs/ac |
| Deerweed | <i>Lotus scoparius</i> | Seeding / 1.5 lbs/ac |
| California sunflower | <i>Encelia californica</i> | Seeding / 0.5 lbs/ac |

000107

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

A Notice of Exemption per category 15333 is pending City of San Diego Development Services Department approval of the project.